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REMARKS**Restriction Requirement**

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-44 and 49-55, drawn to program packaging at an operations center, classified in class 725, subclass 32.
- II. Claims 45-48, drawn to distributing programming to slave operations centers connected to master operation centers with viewer information, classified in class 725, subclass 114.

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, the Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, the invention classified by the Examiner as Invention Group I.

The Applicants respectfully submit that if the Examiner continues to find that claims 1-44 and 49-55, and claims 45-48 are drawn to two distinct inventions (although the Applicant does not concede), the search and examination of the entire Application can still be made "without serious burden to the Examiner." (See MPEP § 803).

In particular, the Applicants point out that the elements of the program packaging at the operations center are substantially the same as those among the master and slave operation centers. It is merely a matter of location in the system where these elements are implemented. Specifically, the CPU and program storage database of claim 1 may be associated with a first (master) operations center as recited in claim 45, while the viewer information database, external program source, and DCPU of claim 1 are associated with a second (slave) operations center of claim 45. The applicants submit that the features recited in claims 45-48 (Group II) would not be unduly burdensome to search, since most of these features are being searched with respect to the elements associated with the claims of Group I. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

In the event that the restriction requirement is upheld, the Applicants reserve the right to subsequently file divisional applications in order to prosecute the inventions recited in any one or more of the non-elected claims in Group II.

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CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Eamon J. Wall, Esq. or Steven M. Hertzberg at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 11/30/04


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